

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a disorder of lipid metabolism  
~~modulating lipid metabolism in the vascular system~~ comprising administering an anti-  
microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the total  
level of cholesterol is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the level of  
apolipoprotein-B is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein the  
[[condition]]disorder is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia,  
hyperlipidemia, nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism, dysglobulinemia and Cushing  
syndrome.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said anti-  
microbial agent is a macrolide antibiotic.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein said anti-  
microbial agent is a azalide antibiotic.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein said anti- microbial agent is azithromycin.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said metal chelator is a copper chelator.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said copper chelator is acetylsalicylic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim according to claim 12 wherein anti-microbial agent and the metal chelator are administered simultaneously.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein anti-microbial agent and the metal chelator are administered sequentially.

Claims 23-26. (Canceled)

27. (new) A method according to claim 13 wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism, dysglobulinemia and Cushing syndrome.

28. (new) A method according to claim 14 wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism, dysglobulinemia and Cushing syndrome.